

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 11725 191317Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5509

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11725

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETEL IN
SUBJ: NASA CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR INSAT

REF: STATE 195710

1. I UNDERSTAND DR S. DHAWAN, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, HAS INVITED NASA TO SEND TWO EXPERTS TO CONSULT WITH THE GOI ON CERTAIN TECHNICAL AREAS IN PREPARATION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE SPACE SEGMENT OF AN RFP.
2. I STRONGLY URGE WE BE RESPONSIVE TO THIS REQUEST. IN ADDITION TO THE COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE THIS MIGHT BRING TO POTENTIAL AMERICA CONTRACTORS, IT COULD PROMOTE A LONG-TERM INFLUENCE ON THEIR SPACE PROGRAM.
3. THE FORERUNNER OF THIS COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE PROGRAM WAS SITE, WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY NASA AND WHICH BOTH GOVERNMENTS CONSIDERED A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENT. I BELIEVE THIS FOLLOW-ON PROGRAM STANDS TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON INDIAN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AS DEMONSTRATED BY THAT EXPERIMENT. ANOTHER ADVANTAGE IS THE PROSPECT THAT OUR INVOLVEMENT COULD LEAD TO USE OF US LAUNCHES FOR THE PROGRAM IF WE DEMONSTRATE OUR RELIABILITY IN THIS REGARD, IT COULD ENCOURAGE THE GOI TO FOREGO DEVELOPING THEIR OWN

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LAUNCHING CAPABILITY.

4. TO HAVE THE GOI COME TO US WITH THIS OPPORTUNITY ILLUSTRATES THEIR DESIRE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH US IN THEIR SPACE PROGRAM. WE SHOULD NOT LOSE THIS OPPORTUNITY. IT COULD GIVE US AN ELEMENT OF INFLUENCE IN A SECURITY-SENSITIVE FIELD WHILE IMPROVING

OUR RELATIONSHIP BY UNDERSCORING OUR WILLINGNESS TO
SUPPORT INDIAN EFFRTS IN DEVELOPING ITS SCIENTIFIC
CAPABILITIES.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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